

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 7335

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SUBJ: GOP WARNS POPULACE THAT EMERGENCY MEASURES MUST BE

REF: LIMA 7138, LIMA 7017

SUMMARY: THE GOP HAS ANNOUNCED THAT SOME PERSONS VIOLATING EMERGENCY REGULATIONS AND CURFEW HAVE BEEN KILLED. GOP OFFICIALS REITERATE THAT EMERGENCY MEASURES ARE NECESSARY FOR PUBLIC ORDER AND MUST BE OBEYED. FAR-LEFT UNIONS ARE WARNED TO CALL OFF STRIKE SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 16. THE PROBLEMS OF DISSENSION WITHIN THE MILITARY CONTINUE BUT MAY BE EASING. THE GOP REMAINS CONCERNED WITH LEFTIST POLITICAL ACTIVITY AND INDICATES THAT STRICT SECURITY MEASURES WILL CONTINUE IN FORCE. END SUMMARY.

1. THE ARMED FORCES JOINT COMMAND ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE AUGUST 11 DECLARING THAT THERE HAVE BEEN CONTINUING AND SERIOUS VIOLATIONS OF EMERGENCY MEASURES AND CURFEW. CONSEQUENTLY THE "FORCES OF ORDER HAVE BEEN OBLIGED TO ACT DRASTICALLY, RESULTING IN SOME REGRETTABLE LOSS OF LIFE, INJURIES AND A GREAT NUMBER OF ARRESTS". THE JOINT COMMAND CALLS UPON CITIZENS TO TAKE THE EMERGENCY MEASURES SERIOUSLY IN ORDER TO AVOID "LAMENTABLE" CONSEQUENCES. THE COMMUNIQUE WAS REPEATED TIME AND AGAIN OVER RADIO AND TELEVISION THE EVENING OF AUGUST 11. CONCENTRATION OF MILITARY AND POLICE AT KEY LOCATIONS FOLLOWING CURFEW AUGUST 12 APPEARED TO BE PART OF A LARGE SCALE "DRAGNET" OF CURFEW VIOLA-
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TORS. ALTHOUGH SHOTS (PRESUMABLY WARNINGS THAT CURFEW IS IN

EFFECT) OFTEN RING OUT DURING THE NIGHT, THERE SEEMED TO BE CONSIDERABLY MORE FIRING THAN USUAL IN LIMA THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 11/12.

2. GOP OFFICIALS CONTINUE TO EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF EMERGENCY MEASURES IN THE MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC ORDER. INTERIOR MINISTER GENERAL CISNEROS TOLD THE PRESS AUGUST 7 THAT "THE COUNTRY IS COMPLETELY CALM" AND THE CALM IS DUE TO THE STATE OF EMERGENCY, SUSPENSION OF CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES AND THE CURFEW. CISNEROS STATED FLATLY THAT PERUVIANS NEED THE DISCIPLINE PROVIDED BY THE CURFEW. HE CLAIMED THAT "WERE EMERGENCY MEASURES SUSPENDED, DISORDERS WOULD AGAIN OCCUR". MEANWHILE PRIME MINISTER ARBULU IN AN AUGUST 7 PRESS CONFERENCE CLAIMED THAT THE CURFEW WAS A "POSITIVE MEASURE" IN THAT IT PROMOTES "CLOSER FAMILY UNION". HE SAID IT WAS BEST THAT THE CURFEW CONTINUE.

3. A THREATENED NATIONWIDE STRIKE IN THE MINES SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 16 (LIMA 7017) IS A MAJOR GOP CONCERN. INTERIOR MINISTER CISNEROS TOLD REPORTERS AUGUST 10 THAT THE ARMED FORCES JOINT COMMAND HAD DECLARED A PROHIBITION ON STRIKES DURING THE SUSPENSION OF GUARANTEES. THEREFORE A STRIKE CALL, STATED CISNEROS, "MEANS REBELLION AGAINST THE JOINT COMMAND ORDER AND THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR WILL INTERVENE TO GUARANTEE THAT GOVERNMENT ORDERS ARE COMPLIED WITH". HE CALLED UPON WORKERS TO REALIZE THAT THEY ARE BEING MANIPULATED BY POLITICAL GROUPS WHOSE AIM IS TO "HALT THE REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS".

4. WELL-INFORMED PRESS SOURCE TOLD EMBOFF AUGUST 11 THAT MOSCOW-LINE CGTP UNION QUIETLY SUPPORTS NATION-WIDE MINERS STRIKE BUT FEARS GOP REPRESSION. THE CGTP IS ALLEGEDLY ATTEMPTING TO CONVINCE UNIONS TO LIMIT THEIR STRIKE TO A ONE-DAY PROTEST, AT THE SAME TIME INFORMING THE GOP THAT THE STRIKE IS SYMBOLIC AND WILL NOT GREATLY AFFECT PRODUCTION. FAR-LEFT GROUPS ARE SAID TO BE PRESSING FOR A WEEK-LONG STRIKE AT LEAST, COGNIZANT THAT THE GOP MAY TAKE REPRESSIVE ACTION BUT CONVINCED THAT THE OUTCOME WILL BENEFIT FAR-LEFT GROUPS. THE SECGEN OF THE APRISTA-ORIENTED CTP TOLD EMBOFF AUGUST 12 THA THE STRIKE WOULD FAIL BECAUSE OF GOP SECURITY MEASURES. CTP SECGEN CRUZADO WENT ON TO STATE THAT EMERGENCY MEASURES FAVOR THE CTP WHICH

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OTHERWISE WOULD BE FACED WITH INTOLERABLE RANK AND FILE PRESSURE TO JOIN IN NATION-WIDE LABOR PROTEST. CRUZADO IS CONVINCED THAT MAJOR UNREST WILL BREAK OUT IF EMERGENCY MEASURES ARE LIFTED SOON.

5. IN ADDITION TO THE SECURITY PROBLEM ARISING FROM POPULAR DISCONTENT AND POSSIBLE LEFTIST REACTION TO THE GOP POLITICAL SHIFT, THE MILGOV STILL FACES SOME INTERNAL DISSENSION. ONE

OF THE THIRTY ARMY OFFICERS UNDER ARREST (LIMA 7138)
ALLEGEDLY ESCAPED SOME DAYS AGO AND TOOK REFUGE IN THE ARGENTINE
EMBASSY. ACCORDING TO A GOP SOURCE HE WAS LATER "COAXED" TO RE-
TURN TO PRISON. THIS INFORMATION AND THAT CONCERNING A PROTEST
STATEMENT ADHERED TO BY HUNDREDS OF MIDDLE-LEVEL ARMY OFFICERS
IS NOW LEAKING OUT. A FOREIGN REPORTER HAS THE STORY BUT TOLD
EMBOFF HE WOULD REFRAIN FROM PRINTING SUCH POTENTIALLY INFLAMA-
TORY INFORMATION. AN ADVISOR TO PRIME MINISTER ARBULU TOLD
EMBOFF AUGUST 10 THAT MIDDLE-CLASS ARMY OFFICERS HAVE JUST RE-
CEIVED ONE SALARY INCREASE AND ANOTHER MAY SOON BE APPROVED. HE
CONTENDED THAT THE SALARY INCREASE AND "CONTINUED DIALOGUE" HAVE
HELPED EASE TENSIONS AMONG ARMY CAPTAINS AND MAJORS. HE
CLAIMED THAT GOP FEAR THAT CIVILIAN LEFT MIGHT CAPITALIZE ON
DISSENSION WITHIN THE ARMY IS ALSO LESS.

6. THE GOP CONTINUES TO OBSERVE CLOSELY THE ACTIVITIES OF PROMINENT
"REVOLUTIONARY MILITANTS". FORMER PRESIDENT VELASCO'S PRESS
SECRETARY, AUGUSTO ZIMMERMAN, SOUGHT POLITICAL ASYLUM IN THE
PANAMANIAN EMBASSY EVEN THOUGH INTERIOR MINISTER CISNEROS CLAIMED
THAT THE GOP HAD NO ARREST ORDER ON HIM. THE PANAMANIAN
AMBASSADOR ESCORTED ZIMMERMAN TO THE AIRPORT AUGUST 11. HIS
JUST PUBLISHED BOOK HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM THE NEWSSTANDS.
OTHER PROMINENT LEFTISTS POLITICAL AND LABOR LEADERS ARE UNDER
POLICE SURVEILLANCE. MANY HAVE BEEN DETAINED FOR SHORT PERIODS
AND THEN RELEASED. SOME LEADERS OF FAR-LEFT POLITICAL GROUPS
ARE SAID TO BE UNDER MORE PERMANENT DETENTION.

7. THE POLITICAL AND SECURITY SITUATION IN PERU IS STILL
UNSETTLED AND THE GOP CONSIDERS TOUGH SECURITY MEASURES TO
BE ESSENTIAL FOR STABILITY.
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